Production of Billets

1681. SHRI SYED AHMED HASHMI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total quantity of billets produced in the country during the years 1983, 1984 and so far during 1985;

(b) what was the estimated demand of billets in the country during the years 1983, 1984 and so far during 1985;

(c) what is the annual estimated capacity of production of the steel industry to produce billets in the country; and

(d) what are the reasons for shortfall in production?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) The total quantity of billets including prime semis and other rerollable materials produced in the country during 1983-84, 1984-85 and April to October, 1985 have been about 3 million tonnes, 3.3 million tonnes and 2 million tonnes respectively.

(b) The demand of bars, rods and light structurals for which billets are used has for the last three years been as follows:

Year	Million Tonnes
	4·5
	4·1
	4·3

(c) Billets being an intermediate product for the integrated steel plants, no separate estimate of the capacity for billet production is possible. The installed capacity of mini steel plants is to produce 4.2 million tonnes of pencil ingots.

(d) There has been a decline in the quantity of billets available from the main producers for sale as they have utilized largest quantities for the manufacture of finished products. Production from the mini steel plants was adversely affected by shortages in power supply.

Imports and Exports

1682. SHRIMATI OMEM MOYONG DEORI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the figures of imports/exports during the first half of 1985-86, item-wise; and

(b) what steps are being taken to reduce the import of items such as fertilizer, sugar and edible oil so as to make funds available for high technology import?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) According to the latest available provisional data India's overall exports and imports during the first 4 months of the current financial year i.e. April—July, 1985 amounted to Rs. 2942.04 crores and Rs. 6021.12 crores respectively. The item- wise figures of exports and imports for April—July, 1985 are not yet available.

(b) Continuous efforts are being made to step up indigenous production of items such as fertilizers, sugar and edible oils. The production targets in respect of these items for the Seventh Five Year Plan period (1985—90) are as under:——

Products/Product groups	Unit	1984-85 (Actuals)	1989-90 (Target)
Fertilizers			
(i) Nitrogenous fertilizers	000 tonnes	3917	6560
(ii) Phosphatic fertilizers	000 tonnes	1264	2191
Sugar*	lakh tonnes	62	102
Vansapati	000 tonnes	920	1210
Oil seeds	lakh tonnes	130	180

*Sugar year (October-September).